AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (canceled)

28. **(currently amended)** A method of cutting off a web having a basic weight and being fed at a web feeding speed between a preceding knife cylinder that carries on a peripheral surface thereof a preceding knife and a following knife cylinder that carries on a peripheral surface thereof a following knife, said method comprising:

determining an amount of cutting torque (Txa+Txb) necessary for the knives to cut off the web, based on the basic weight and the feeding speed of the web;

while the web is being cut, driving the following knife and the preceding knife respectively with a first torque component Txa and a second torque component Txb of the cutting torque in the direction in which the preceding knife and the following knife are pressed against each other, wherein the first torque component Txa and the second torque component Txb have opposite signs; and

~~A method as set forth in claim 25, further comprising~~

while the web is being cut, varying an absolute value of the first torque component Txa or the second torque component Txb.

29. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 28, wherein said varying comprises:

raising the absolute value of the first torque component Txa or the second torque component Txb during an initial period of cutting the web;

lowering the absolute value of the first torque component Txa or the second torque component Txb during a subsequent, middle period of cutting the web; and

raising again the absolute value of the first torque component Txa or the second torque component Txb during a subsequent, final period of cutting the web.

30. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 29, wherein

the absolute value of the first torque component Txa or the second torque component Txb during the initial period of cutting the web is 1.1 to 1.5 times Txa or Txb;

the absolute value of the first torque component Txa or the second torque component Txb during the middle period of cutting the web is 0.6 to 0.9 times Txa or Txb; and

the absolute value of the first torque component Txa or the second torque component Txb during the final period of cutting the web is 0.9 to 1.1 times Txa or Txb.

31-34. (canceled)